

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/816,064

Examiner

Hoon Song

Applicant(s)

DE MAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on 2/1/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-27, 32-43, 45, 46, 49, 59 and 62.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 6-27, 32-43, 45-46, 49, 59 and 62 are allowed over prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 6-17, 32-43 and 59, the prior art fails to teach a volumetric stationary CT system having at least one stationary detector including a pair of ring detectors and at least one stationary distributed x-rays source including at least two full ring sources, wherein at least one ring source of the two full ring sources is positioned between the pair of ring detectors as claimed in independent claims 6 and 32.

Regarding claims 18 and 62, the prior art fails to teach a volumetric stationary CT system having at least one stationary detector and at least one stationary distributed x-ray source proximal to the at least one stationary detector and one or more line sources extending at least along a Z-direction as claimed in independent claims 18 and 62.

Regarding claims 19-25, the prior art fails to teach a volumetric stationary CT system having at least one stationary ring detector and more than one partial ring sources flanking the stationary ring detector on alternating sides of the stationary ring detector as claimed in independent claim 19.

Regarding claims 26-27, the prior art fails to teach a volumetric stationary CT system having at least one stationary detector and at least one stationary distributed x-ray source placed proximal to the at least one stationary detector, wherein the at least one stationary detector includes a helical detector and the at least one stationary distributed X-ray source includes a helical source placed adjacent to the helical detector as claimed in independent claim 26.

Regarding claim 45, the prior art fails to teach a method of x-ray imaging by providing at least one stationary detector and at least one stationary distributed x-ray source placed adjacent to the at least one detector, providing a source controller for triggering one or more emitters in the at least one stationary distributed x-ray source acquiring volumetric data by the at least one stationary detector and measuring additional data by employing line sources as claimed in independent claim 45.

Regarding claims 46 and 49, the prior art fails to teach a method of x-ray imaging by providing at least one stationary detector and at least one stationary distributed x-ray source placed adjacent to the at least one detector and providing one or more ring detectors placed between two or more ring sources as claimed in independent claim 46.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

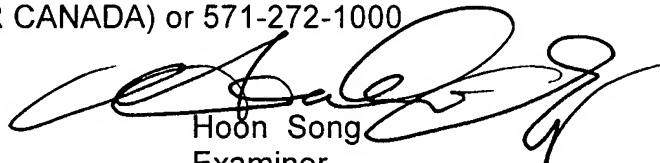
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is (571) 272-2494. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM - 7 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on (571) 272 - 2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hoon Song', is written over the printed name.

Hoon Song
Examiner
Art Unit 2882

3/29/2007